

When roaming device 124 is in communications range 128a, access point 116a may create at least one record, *e.g.*, a start record and a stop record, which provides details relating to the existence of roaming device 124 within communications range 128a. Information in a record generally includes identifying information pertaining to roaming device 124, a port which roaming device 124 is using for communications over, a type of service used by roaming device 124, a date and a time associated with the existence of roaming device 124 within communications range 128a, *e.g.*, a start time in a start record or an end time in a stop record, and a serial number of access point 116a. The information that is included in a record is generally defined by the manufacturer of access point 116a. If roaming device 124 moves out of communications range 128a and into communications range 128b, access point 116b will create a record pertaining to the existence of roaming device 124 in communications range 128b.

A service provider, *e.g.*, an organization that administers and maintains wireless LAN 100, often provides detailed record information to users who use wireless LAN 100. That is, a user of roaming device 124 is generally provided with accounting information that enables both the user and the service provider to track the activities of roaming device 124. For example, information relating to the amount of time roaming device 124 spends in communications range 128a may be provided to the user in his or her monthly usage bill. Such information may be used by the service provider to track the usage of access points 116 within LAN 100. Typically, the detailed record information is obtained by reading start records and end records created by access points 116.

Although information stored in start records and end records generally enables a service provider to provide a user with a detailed record of billing information, the information stored in the start records and end records is generally not customizable. In other words, a service provider is not able to configure the records created by access points 116, as the information stored in the records is typically determined by the manufacturer of access points 116. While a post-processing filter may be used by the service provider to eliminate some information that is stored in the records from being

included in the billing information provided to the user, the service provider is not able to choose the information that is stored in the records.

In addition to not being able to select the information that is stored in the records maintained by access points 116, a service provider is also not able to add static information that is to be stored in the records. By way of example, although information pertaining to the physical location of access point 116a may be useful to a user of roaming device 124, such information is not included in the records generated by access point 116a. As such, while billing or usage information provided to the user of roaming device 124 may include a serial number of access point 116a, the location of access point 116a is not available to the user. Information pertaining to the location of access points 116 may be useful to the user, for example, for use in determining whether charges for using access points 116 are consistent with the locations of access points 116.

Therefore, what is needed are a method and an apparatus which allow a service provider to specify information which is to be stored in records generated and maintained by an access point. Specifically, what is desired is a system which enables a service provider to provide static information such as access point location information which may be included in records created by an access point.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to adding static information to records generated by a wireless transceiver device such as an access point. According to one aspect of the present invention, a wireless transceiver device that interfaces with a roaming device includes computer code for causing input information to be accepted from an external source, and a memory that includes an editable field and is arranged to store data. The computer code for causing the input information to be accepted from the source causes the input information to be stored in the editable field. The wireless transceiver device also includes computer code for causing a record associated with the roaming device to

be generated. The record includes the input information stored in the editable field and the data, and the computer code for causing the record to be generated also causes the record to be stored on the memory.

5 In one embodiment, the wireless transceiver device also includes computer code for obtaining the data when the roaming device is in communication with the wireless transceiver device. In such an embodiment, the computer code for causing the record to be generated includes computer code for causing the record to be generated when the roaming device registers with the wireless transceiver device.

10 An access point or, more generally, a remote wireless transceiver device, which is configured to enable a service provider who maintains the access point to specify information to be included in accounting or usage records generated using the access point allows a desired level of detail to be included in the records. For example, adding
15 static information such as a location of the access point to accounting records enables the activities of a roaming device that utilizes the access point to be tracked more efficiently.

20 According to another aspect of the present invention, a transceiver device that interfaces with a first device includes means for accepting input information from an external source, means for storing data, and means for generating a record associated with the first device. The means for storing the data further includes means for storing the input information in an editable field when the means for accepting the input information provides the input information to the editable field. The record includes the input information that is stored in the editable field. In general, the means for storing the
25 data also includes means for storing the record.

30 According to still another aspect of the present invention, a method for utilizing a transceiver device that has a communications range includes receiving static information into an editable field stored in memory associated with the transceiver device, and storing the static information into the editable field. When an indication that a roaming device is